

### REMARKS

Claims 1-10 have been rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinmetz et al. (U.S. Patent 6,375,315) in view of Childers et al. (U.S. Patent 6,227,638). These rejection are respectfully traversed.

The present invention is directed to an ink tank for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink tank has an electronic memory for storing information with respect to the properties, etc. of the ink disposer than the ink tank. According to the present invention, the ink tank is fit into a mounting socket of a printer for assuring reliable electrical contact between the electronic memory of the ink tank and the circuitry of the printer. As noted in Figures 1-3 of the present invention, the ink tank 10 for the inkjet printer is adapted to be inserted in an essentially horizontal movement (from left to right as shown in Figure 1) into a mounting socket 16, which is shown in Figure 2 and which is provided on a machine frame of the inkjet printer. The ink tank 10 has a coupling member 18 projecting from the front end wall near the bottom of the casing 12. When the ink tank is inserted into the mounting socket 16, the coupling member 18 engages with a mating coupling member 20 to establish a connection between the interior of the ink tank 10 and an ink supply line 22 of the printer. Thus, the ink tank assembly of the present invention, wherein the ink tank is inserted into the mounting socket, requires the cooperation of various elements of the ink tank and the mounting socket for achieving a substantial horizontal insertion of the ink tank into the mounting socket. Thus, the weight of the ink tank and the ink contained therein is used for providing sufficient contact pressure between the memory button 44 and the electrical contacts of the mounting socket to achieve a reliable electrical connection between the respective elements even when comparatively large manufacturing tolerances are in existence for the

The Steinmetz patent, newly cited by the Examiner, discloses an ink container 12 provided with guide members 40. The receiving station 14 is provided with guide rails 46 for guiding the ink container in both a horizontal direction towards the back wall 66 and a vertical direction toward the bottom surface of the receiving station 14. Thus, in column 8, lines 7 to 13,

it is stated that the guide rails 46 then guide the replaceable ink container in both a horizontal direction toward the back wall 66 and a vertical direction toward the bottom surface of the receiving station 14 such that the engagement feature 42 on the ink container 12 is received by a corresponding engagement feature 48 on the back wall 66 of the receiving station 14 as shown in Figure 7b.

The Steinmetz patent further discloses an ink container 12 having a leading edge 72. The leading edge is adapted to be inserted in a horizontal direction toward the back wall 66 (see column 8, lines 2-8 and Figures 7a and 8a). The ink container 12 has a trailing end 82, which is inserted upon urging it downwardly toward the bottom surface (see column 8, lines 25-29). A downward force is applied to the ink container as represented by arrows 90 in Figure 7b. The trailing end is thus inserted vertically into the receiving station. This is also the case in Figure 8a. Thus, a person skilled in the art, and trying to solve the problem of placing a memory button provided on a bottom side of the casing, and reading the Steinmetz patent, would place the memory button near the trailing end of the ink tank. Indeed, a person skilled in the art would chose a location on a bottom side of the casing, near the trailing end of the ink tank to ensure reliable electrical connection between the button and the electrical contacts of the mounting socket. The location on a bottom side of the casing, near the trailing end of the tank would be obvious, since it is the location where the forces exerted on the bottom surface of the ink tank are in a downward direction, which is the direction indicated by the arrows 90 in Figure 7b. This is in line with the description in column 8, lines 50 to 55 of the Steinmetz patent. The ink tank is held in a cantilever fashion as recognized by the Examiner. Therefore, the forces exerted on the bottom surface of the ink tank, near the leading edge, are in an upward direction. This location would be undesirable for reliable electrical connection between the button and the electrical contacts of the mounting socket. Thus, a person skilled in the art, with the teachings of the Steinmetz patent before him, would avoid a location of the memory button provided on a bottom side near the leading edge, because this would be in counter distinction to the teachings of the

Steinmetz patent regarding the forces exerted on the bottom surface of the ink tank. The leading edge, in the Steinmetz patent is the one which is inserted horizontally. The trailing end is the one which is inserted vertically. This is also true in the embodiment of Figure 8a. Therefore, claim 1, having the feature of an ink tank having one end adapted to be inserted into a mounting socket in an essentially horizontal direction, said electronic memory device being provided on a bottom side of the casing and configured to electrically engage the mounting socket under the weight of the ink tank, being further amended to recite that the electronic memory device is configured as a button, which is located near said one end of the casing is clearly an unobvious construction of an ink tank assembly for the reasons set forth hereinabove.

The Applicants have developed an ink tank assembly for an inkjet printer, wherein the ink tank is readily fitted into a mounting socket of the printer for assuring a reliable electrical contact between the electronic memory of the ink tank and the circuitry of the printer. Neither the Steinmetz et al. patent nor the Childers et al. patent suggest the Applicant's inventive combination and thus it is necessary for the Examiner to reconstruct the teachings and the structure of the respective prior art patents in order to arrive at the Applicants' inventive contribution. Such hindsight reconstruction of the prior art references violates the tenets of 35 U.S.C. 103 and combine the references as suggested by the Examiner can only be accomplished by reconstructing the teachings of the references in view of the Applicants' own disclosure.

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all the claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

If the Examiner has any questions concerning this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch, Reg. No. 22,463 at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000.

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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